



TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

**PESTICIDE USE
NOTIFICATION PLAN**

Adopted – 26 March 2014 (Res 92/14)
To be reviewed – March 2017

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INTRODUCTION

This pesticide/herbicide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticide Regulation 2009 (the Regulation).

The aim of the plan sets out how Tenterfield Shire Council (TSC) will notify members of the community of pesticide/herbicide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it manages. Notification of pesticide/herbicide use will allow members of the community to make informed decisions to reduce their exposure to pesticide/herbicides if they wish. Council ensures that pesticide/herbicides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

The Plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide/herbicide applications it makes in public places.

The Plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the plan;
- Who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use;
- How and when TSC will provide the community with information about its pesticide/herbicide applications in public places (i.e. what notification arrangements will be used);
- How the community can access this plan and get more information about TSC's notification arrangements;
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted; and
- Contact details for anyone wanting more information about the plan.

Tenterfield Shire Council administers the NSW Noxious Weed Act 1993 in the Local Control Area. Council is responsible for inspection and ensuring control of noxious weeds on private property and Council's roadsides. The majority of pesticide/herbicide use is limited to the application of pesticide/herbicides to control noxious weeds, however environmental weeds may be treated.

Council may also conduct control works on Vacant Crown Lands and Land tenures controlled by state departments including but not limited to NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation (National Parks and Wildlife Services – NPWS). When conducting control works on these land tenures outside Council's jurisdiction the Pest Management Plan for that specific organisation will be used.

Wherever possible Council adopts integrated pest management programs that will use a range of techniques including biological, cultural, physical and chemical control. Council's management programs are designed to have a minimal effect on the environment through the use of best practice management techniques.

PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

TSC proposes to use or allow the use of pesticide/herbicides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it controls, including;

- Laneways, pathways, road reserves or road verges and other easements accessible to the public ;
- Drains and drainage systems ;
- Natural areas and bushland ;
- Rivers, streams, creeks and foreshore areas ; and
- Wetlands, swamps.

TSC's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide/herbicide use in each of these categories of public places is summarised in the following table.

Public Places	Regular User Groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide/herbicide use
Laneways, pathways, road reserves or road verges and other easements accessible to the public	Regular use by all sections of community	High in urban and rural town areas Medium use in rural areas	Spot and broadscale pesticide/herbicide applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides
Natural areas and bushland	Local residents Visitors Community groups General recreational users (e.g. Fishing, dog walking, bird watching)	High near access paths/trails, swimming and recreational areas Low other than identified areas	Spot and broad scale pesticide/herbicide applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides.
Rivers, streams, creeks, foreshore areas, drains and Wetlands	Local residents Visitors Community groups General recreational users (e.g. Kayakers, bird watchers, Fishing,)	Medium to Low	Spot and broadscale pesticide/herbicide applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides
Community land including: Parks, Playgrounds, Reserves and Picnic areas	All sections of community	High in urban and rural town areas Medium - low use in rural areas	Spot and broadscale pesticide/herbicide applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides

NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Tenterfield Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide/herbicide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide/herbicide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on TSC's, assessment of the:

- Level of usage of public places where pesticide/herbicides may be used.
- Extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticide/herbicides (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) and are likely to use these areas regularly.
- Extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticide/herbicides (such as picnic areas where food is consumed, sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground, grazing on reserves or roadsides by livestock).
- Application technique used.
- Pesticide/herbicide type used.

Pesticide/herbicide use is subject to suitable conditions (e.g. weather) but wherever possible notification of pesticide/herbicide use by TSC will be at least 7 days notice of planned pesticide/herbicide use and current information on emergency use of pesticide/herbicides. Information will also be available specifying the area where pesticide/herbicides will be used, the pesticide/herbicide to be used and contact details for more information.

Notice of pesticide/herbicide use will be provided by a combination of:

- Erection of Signage on job sites;
- Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide/herbicide use in public places);
- Letters, Faxes and/or Email Letter box drops;
- Personal contact through door knocking and/or phone contact.

Property owners with sensitive crops proximal to proposed spray areas be notified and spraying deferred until the nominated crop is harvested.

Pesticide/Herbicide Sensitive Register

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of pesticide/herbicide use in particular circumstances, as described in this section of the plan. Nominations should be addressed to:

The General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council
PO Box 214
TENTERFIELD NSW 2372

and should be accompanied by proof of sensitivity e.g. organic certification, medical certificate.

How and When Notice of Pesticide/herbicide Use Will Be Provided

It is not possible for all detailed uses of pesticide/herbicides to be specified in this plan because of the large area managed by TSC, the range of pest species and the range of pesticide/herbicides available for their control. It is essential that members of the community who wish to avoid exposure to pesticide/herbicides should contact TSC office and ask for further details (contact details are included at the end of this document)

Parks, Playgrounds, Reserves and Picnic areas, natural areas, laneways, pathways, road reserves/verges (including RMS managed land) and other easements accessible to the public

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories managed by Council within the shire.

- Community land (e.g. Parks, Playgrounds, Reserves, Picnic areas)
- Laneways, pathways
- Road reserves/verges
- Other easements accessible to the public
- Natural areas (bushland, Wetlands)

For the following pesticide/herbicide uses:

Broad scale applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides using motorised equipment

Written and/or verbal notification will be given to persons or organisation adjoining treatment areas that are registered on Council 's pesticide/herbicide

register or are identified as sensitive places. Information relating to Council's forward program for noxious and environmental weed control will be available to the general community on Council ' s website seven days prior to the event.

Signage will be erected near the application area or main entrance prior to commencement of the treatment and will remain in place until the pesticide/herbicide has dried on the plants surface. For road reserves and verges where application has occurred with a pesticide/herbicide that has a withholding period applying to any produce or consumption. It is up to the discretion of the operator if the locality requires signage or notification of surrounding landholder's or occupiers. This decision will be influenced by the likelihood that stock and/or produce may be subjected to exposure and/or the withholding period is over a time span that would raise the possibility of contamination.

Rivers, Streams, Creeks, Drains, Lakes, Dams and Wetlands

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories managed by Council.

- Waterways (including but not limited to: Rivers, Streams/ Creeks, Drains, Wetlands)

For the following pesticide/herbicide uses:

- Broad scale applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides using motorised equipment

Written notification will be forwarded to all landholders/occupiers adjoining treatment areas. A public notice will be advertised in a newspaper that is circulated in the area. Information relating to Council ' s forward program for noxious and environmental weed control will be available to the general community on Council ' s website seven days prior to the event.

Signage will be erected near the application area or main entrance prior to commencement of the treatment and will remain in place until the pesticide/herbicide has dried on the plants surface. For waterways where an application has occurred with an pesticide/herbicide that has a withholding period applying to any consumption or use. It is up to the discretion of the operator if the locality requires signage or notification of surrounding landholder's or occupiers. This decision will be influenced by the likelihood that general public, livestock and/or produce may be subjected to exposure and/or the withholding period is over a time span that would raise the possibility of contamination.

Special Measures for Sensitive Places

A sensitive place may be defined to be any:

- School or pre-school;
- Kindergarten;
- Childcare centre;
- Hospital;
- Community health centre;
- Nursing home; or,
- Place declared to be a sensitive place by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide/herbicide use in public places adjacent to sensitive places will consist of written notification to be provided a minimum of 7 days prior to broad scale applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides using motorised equipment;

Whenever possible, pesticide/herbicide applications adjacent to schools will be carried out during gazetted holiday periods.

Notification of Emergency Pesticide/herbicide Applications

In cases where emergency pesticide/herbicide applications in public places are required to deal with new infestations of Class 1 or Class 2 Noxious weeds, verbal notice will be provided and if unable to contact landholders/occupiers written notification will be given a minimum of 24 hours before the application of any pesticide/herbicide occurs for the following pesticide/herbicide uses:

- Broad scale applications of selective and non selective pesticide/herbicides using motorised equipment.

Where Council acts as a contractor for the Constituent Councils, State or Commonwealth Departments or Public Authorities, notification will occur as required by the particular bodies Pesticide/herbicide Notification Plan.

Public places where no notice will be provided

Notice will not be provided when Councils uses small quantities of some pesticide/herbicides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide/herbicide applications other than by way of description in this plan (or general information on Council's website). This will apply in the following situations of spot noxious and environmental weed control:

- using non-motorised equipment where less than 10L is used (e.g. wick wipers, knapsack); or,
- Stem injection, scrape and paint or cut and swab, where no drift or off target damage can occur.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

Notice of pesticide/herbicides uses will include the following information:

- The full product name of the pesticide/herbicide to be used, and
- The purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pests or weeds are being treated, and
- The proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide/herbicide use, and
- The places where the pesticide/herbicide is to be used, and
- Contact telephone number and email address of the Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice,
- and any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide/herbicide product label or the APVMA¹ permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the general public and workers. As previously noted Council's website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and if practical emergency pesticide/herbicide use in public places with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address and contact numbers if access to the internet is unavailable will be publicised in advertisements and signage for pesticide/herbicide applications.

¹ The Australian Pesticide/herbicides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide/herbicide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

TSC will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

1. Placing Copies of the Pesticide/herbicide Notification Plan can be viewed free of charge at:
 - Council Office;
 - Drake RTC;
 - Liston Hall;
 - Torrington;
 - Legume Shop; and,
 - Urbenville Post Office.
2. Placing a notice in the Tenterfield Star, Southern Downs Weekly and Border Post.
3. Alternatively, a copy may be downloaded from the TSC website - www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au.

FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every three (3) years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- A report on progress of implementing the plan ;
- Public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan; and
- Recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Tenterfield Shire Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide/herbicide applications in public places should contact:

Noxious Weeds Officer
Tenterfield Shire Council
PO Box 214
TENTERFIELD NSW 2372
Phone: (02) 6736 6000
Fax: (02) 6736 6005
Email: council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au

TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

Intended Pesticide Use

Product Name	Active Constituents
The Purpose of Use	
Spraying Dates	
Warning Regarding Use or Re-Entry	
Contact Phone Numbers	